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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

THE SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The National and States Councils adjourned for the holidays last Thursday week; they will reassemble in September.

THE NEW FEDERAL OFFICE FOR ELECTRICITY.

The Federal Council has now appointed those in charge of the recently created Office for Electricity. The first director will be Florian Lusser (Uri) at present engaged with the Brusio (Poschiavo) Power works and he will be assisted by H. Zangerer of Zurich, a well-known authority in electro-technical matters.

MEETING OF SWISS DIPLOMATS.

The customary annual meeting of Swiss Ministers and other diplomatic representatives abroad has been fixed by the Federal Council to take place on the 29th and 30th of August.

THE FASCISTS BLACK LISTS.

The socialist Ticinese daily "Libera Stanza" announces that it has secured the much-debated Italian Black Lists. They are supposed to contain the names of about 15,000 Swiss and foreigners residing in Switzerland who are debarred from entering Italy. The "Libera Stanza" intends to publish the whole of the list by daily instalments of about one hundred.

DONATIONS TO THE SWISS RED CROSS.

Dr. C. Bürkhardt, who recently died in Arlesheim (Basel-Land), has bequeathed Frs. 450,000 to the general funds.

Nat. Councillor Col. Dollfus has given his estate "Beau-Site" in Leubringen (Bienne) to the Red Cross Society as a convalescent home for aged and invalided nurses.

"CLOUTING" OVER THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The usually decorous proceedings in the National Council were interrupted just before the close of the session by a lively intermezzo. The *casus belli* was the official report on the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations. The few communists found nothing to their liking in this document, the more so as their one-time allies, the socialists, are beginning to champion the cause of the League. Dr. Welti (Communist, Basle), asserted that the League of Nations was not an instrument of peace but simply veiled all-round preparations for the next war. Col. Dollfus (Cons.Cath., Ticino), a member of the Swiss delegation, in reply to another charge, ventured the remark that the traffic in illicit drugs was not carried on by capitalists but by bolsheviks—the friends of Dr. Welti, a remark which was followed by the shout "liar." The gallant colonel turned round and promptly boxed the ears of the interrupter, another communist member Bringolf from Schaffhausen. The latter tried to retaliate but was prevented by the intervention of other members; he returned to his seat calling the colonel a coward. This was the signal for a general uproar intensified by the banging of the members' desks and the speaker had no other alternative than to suspend the sitting. The scuffle was transferred to the lobbies where Bringolf revenged himself on his opponent by administering his own medicine in increased doses and when calm was restored and the sitting reopened the speaker named Col. Dollfus. The discussion on the report was continued and closed after a few explanatory statements by Federal Councillor Motta, who protested against the remarks of some socialists that Geneva was the rendez-vous of the international "gas-bags."

STATISTIC OF MOTOR CARS IN SWITZERLAND.

The number of motor cars is increasing by the thousands every year.

From 1922-1929 the number of private cars has increased by 266 per cent., those of lorries by 162 per cent. During the seven years 62,000 foreign cars have been imported into Switzerland at an aggregate value of 500,000,000 Frs.

The private cars of Swiss make have decreased in the seven years by 34 per cent., German 16 per cent., whilst the French made cars have increased by 300 per cent., the Italian by 580 per cent., and

the American by 600 per cent.

The lorries of Swiss make have had an increase of 71 per cent., the German 17 per cent., the French 273 per cent., the Italian 188 per cent., and the American of 2,408 per cent. The Swiss lorry industry is on the whole still represented with 34 per cent. This is due to the relative favourable position of the manufacture of high-power cars.

The Federal Statistical Department announces that in the first five months of this year 5,115 private cars and lorries have been imported as against 5,214 during the same time last year.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Some children were playing in a wash-house in the presence of grown-ups, when a two-year-old girl, Miriam Suttler, of Landiswil, behind the backs of those working, fell into a bucket of boiling water which stood on the floor. She was terribly scalded and died the following morning.

N.Z.Z.

TESSIN.

The Italian Pompeo Pieroni has been arrested in Locarno, after he was successful in swindling about 250 Italian business men, who settled in the Canton of Tessin, out of nearly 50,000 Frs. He sold forged diplomas to them, purporting to be from the Chamber of Commerce of Genoa, appointing the buyers the official representatives thereof. His nefarious trade was effectively stopped in Locarno.

B.

BASLE.

A number of Communists who took part in a demonstration from the Mustermesse to the Blaesitor, although the procession was prohibited by the police, have been served with a summons for 30 Frs. each. As they protested against these summonses the President of the Policecourt dealt with 60 of these cases, 23 were acquitted, 23 others fined 30 Frs. each or 3 days imprisonment and the remainder remanded for further investigation.

A party of Communists from Weil (Baden) attempting to cross the frontier into Switzerland, were stopped by the frontier police. A Communist farrier, who attacked one of the policemen was condemned to 10 days' imprisonment by the Bâle Criminal Court.

N.Z.Z.

Shortly after 2 p.m. on the 24th a thunderstorm broke over Bâle with such force as had not been experienced for the last ten years at this time of the year. Hailstones were falling during about a quarter of an hour, the size of which varied from the size of a cherry-stone to a pigeon's egg. The town looked for a time as if snow had fallen. At the same time a deluge like rain changed some of the streets into torrents. The gardens in the town and the many nursery gardens in the West and North West have almost been ruined. The lightning struck the overhead wires of the trams in the Entenweid and caused a stoppage of the traffic.

B.

LUCERNE.

Last Saturday the Bailiff of Schötz had to visit the family Reichensteiner in the Glenwid in his official capacity. As the Reichensteiners were well-known as resistent people, two policemen with their dogs were ordered to accompany the bailiff. As soon as the officials approached the house, they were received with shots from a shotgun. A policeman was injured on the hand. Both dogs also received shot wounds. The police had to make use of their firearms to enable them to approach. At last they succeeded in making an entry into the house and to make four arrests. During the ensuing scuffle a son of Reichensteiner had his leg broken.

N.Z.Z.

VAUD.

M. Henry Meyer, a noted architect has died at Lausanne in his 74th year. The deceased spent many years in Bulgaria where some of the most

Special "Souvenir" Number.

Owing to the many demands for extra copies of the last three issues of the "S.O." we have decided to reprint the articles referring to the "Jubilé Décennal" of our Minister. This Souvenir number, which is ready now (price 3d.), is printed in brown on toned art paper and contains the illustrated article of May 31st and the full report of the subsequent Dinner and Presentation with the speeches *in extenso*, as published in the two following issues.

important buildings stand to his credit. Amongst the many constructions of his in Switzerland are the Kursaal at Lausanne and the Casino of Montbenon.

J.S.

The water diviner Abbé Mermel has re-discovered the sulphuric source which had been lost for over half a century and to which Bex is indebted to its name as a Spa.

This source is at no great depth, quite near the village and disgorges 240 hour litres. The Abbé has discovered further sulphuric sources in the precincts of the Grand Hotel, of the existence of which no one had any idea. They flow quite freely and are also at no great depth.

This discovery will help to bring Bex again into prominence. One already thinks of healing invalids with saline and sulphuric baths.

Abbé Mermel will continue his activities in the neighbourhood which is rich in mineral sources.

B.

Driven by the current into the harbour of Prévenges near Morges was a small rowing boat which contained the corpse of a young man. He was later identified as the engineer of the Swiss Federal Railway in Lausanne, who hired the boat at Ouchy for a row on the lake. It is stated that worry over personal circumstances caused him to commit suicide by shooting himself through the heart with a revolver.

B.

NEUCHATEL.

The population of the canton of Neuchâtel has rejected the new taxation laws by a majority of 1761. (For, 7,827; against, 9,591.) The radicals, progressive nationals and socialists voted for, and the liberals against this law.

T.G.

GENEVA.

Amidst great enthusiasm of the entire population the flower festival (Fête des Fleurs) took place at Geneva. In beautiful sunshine chariot after chariot loaded with the most exquisite flowers and accompanied by fair ladies bedecked with flowers, passed through the densely packed streets. On the official stand one could detect Members of the Geneva Government, national and state councillors as well as representatives of both the military and civic powers.

* * *

Colonel Chamorel, commander of the 3rd Brigade and member of the National Council has tendered his resignation. It is said that this decision was arrived at through differences which the Colonel had with the commander of the 1st army corps.

TICINO.

Domenico Barbieri, aged 55, intended to find a companion to sweeten the eventide of his pilgrimage through this valley of sorrow. He cast his eye on a young girl at Reveredo who went by the name of Valenti, but neither the chosen one nor her family seemed to appreciate the attention bestowed. One of the brothers of the girl was delegated to inform the marriage seeker of the decision taken by the family. In the course of the conversation Giuseppe Valenti boxed Barbieri's ears, which so infuriated the latter that he went home, fetched a gun and on meeting his assailant again, fired point blank and killed him.

T.G.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS.

The transatlantic flight of Major Kingsford Smith and his companions has been greeted with universal enthusiasm as a great and daring achievement by all who admire adventurous feats.

A part of the "glory" rightly bestowed on these brave pioneers, might be claimed by our compatriots Scintilla Limited. It will no doubt interest our readers to know that the "Southern Cross," as on her previous 8,000 mile Trans-Pacific flight, was fitted with Scintilla magnetics, and this latest achievement on the perilous East to West route is still another striking testimonial to the already proved reliability of their magnetics.

We are tendering Scintilla Limited our heartiest congratulations and are proud that once more Swiss engineering skill has proved to hold its own or even to go one better.

Drink delicious "Valentine"
at every meal—for Health!